

**A METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR PROVIDING AN INFERENCE ENGINE  
INCLUDING A PARAMETER-BASED COST FUNCTION TO EVALUATE  
SEMICONDUCTOR CLIENTS**

**ABSTRACT**

[0062] An inference engine is configured to rank a plurality of clients using at least one parameter associated with each of the plurality of clients. The engine includes a user interface configured to enable a user to select the at least one parameter, a knowledge collection module configured to collect client information based on the at least one parameter, and a calculation module configured to receive the collected information and calculate a client listing using a parameter-based cost function.